ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

ON

THE CENTRAL NEVADA TEST SITE,

NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

R. H. BROOKS

NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

D.R.I., UNLV.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Authority

In accordance with the Holmes and Narver, Inc., original subcontract of October 1, 1968, under Consultant Agreement No. OC-29 under Contract No. AT (29-2)-20 archaeological field reconnaisance was conducted on the Central Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada, and a preliminary report of this research was submitted prior to March 1, 1969. The contract was arranged for the Atomic Energy Commission by Holmes and Narver, Inc., with the Nevada Archaeological Survey of the Desert Research Institute (Western Studies Center Branch), University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Richard H. Brooks, archaeologist, in charge. May 21, 1969 a Revision 1 increase funded April 21, 1969, from the cost budget category No. 03-30-03-02 increased the original purchase order and extended the time of the contract termination to June 30, 1969

2. Purpose and Scope of Revision

1) Extend the term of the original agreement from March 1, 1969 through June 30, 1969.
2) Complete an archaeological site inventory reconnaisance of Hot Creek Valley, concentrated in the vicinity of UC3 and UC4.

3) Photograph all important archaeological sites in the vicinity of construction activities for an official record and report.
4) Salvage archaeological sites along the No Name Hill Road alignment.
5) Prepare an archaeological report on all archaeological activities.

The scope of the original agreement is detailed in the Preliminary Archaeological Report and is not repeated here, although in a later section of this report a summary will be presented on the specific areas surveyed and the types of archaeological sites located and recorded.

3. Achnowledgments

In the original survey R.H. Brooks was assisted by Donald Tuohy, Nevada State Museum; Alvin McClane, Water Freources of the Desert Research Institute; and George Fritzman, Archaeological Research Associates of Los Angeles. In early April, on the basis of the contract extension, R.H. Brooks took Dan and Marianne Wolfman to the Central Nevada Site to begin the additional archaeological research. The Wolfmans are graduate students in archaeology from the University of Colorado, who had just returned from long-time teaching and field research p positions in Central Mexico. Later in May George Kritzman

was again able to assist in the archaeological survey. Mr. Robert Leavitt, a student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a professional photographer, worked in the Hot Creek area in early June with Brooks and Kritzman. Mr. Bill Willard and other members of the Holmes and Narver, Inc. personnel of the Central Nevada Test Site were extremely helpful in aiding this additional archaeological research.

Paul Schumacher, Chief Archaeologist of the National Park Service Western Regional Division, and Fred Worman, AEC archaeologist (LASL), spent several days in the Hot Creek area for consultation and confirmation of the extended archaeological research. Betty Tierney and Marie Mason served as secretary and cataloguer on this project.

Philip Pack and Michael Tierney of the Holmes and Narver, Inc., staff in Las Vegas, aided materially the progress of this research.

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The original archaeological research included an intensive survey along the proposed air strip, the cable line, in the area of the Base Camp and along the proposed new access road from Highway 6 to UC4. In addition, spot check surveys were made in the vicinity of UC3 and UC4 but as mentioned in the Preliminary Report, the archaeological

potential was much in excess of what has been expected, so that a complete survey of this section of Hot Creek Valley was not possible in the time allotted. Brief surveys were also conducted in Little Smokey Valley as at that time AEC expansion into this area was proposed. Along the major dirt road in Upper Hot Creek Valley, beyond Moore Station further brief surveys were instigated resulting in the location of two extremely large surface sites and several petroglyph sites. The map included with the Preliminary Report shows the archaeological site locations in both Hot Creek Valley and Little Smokey Valley, where over 130 archaeological sites were recorded. A number of these were recommended for salvage excavation at a discussion held at the Holmes and Narver, Inc., offices in Las Vegas, between the Advanced Planning personnel, Paul Schumacher and R.H. and S.T. Brooks. At that time a priority listing was made of those sites in the greatest danger of destrustion or vandalism. One of the recommendations for salvage archaeology has been carried out in the contract extension, the excavation at No Name Hill. The recommendations for intensive survey around UC3 and UC4 and for photography have also been followed. The other recommendations could not be carried out for lack of available funds for this project.

A total of 138 archaeological sites were located, recorded

and indicated on the enclosed map from both Hot Creek and Little Smokey Valleys. There are three historic sites, Moore's, Hick's and Pritchard's Stations, which consist of rock house structures and outbuildings, and a fourth, Burnt Station of which there remains only pit depressions. Locally these are said to have been way-stops for horse drawn frieght lines.

Of the 134 prehistoric sites which were identified, 5 are shelter sites; that is, a shelter consisting of a cliff-overhang, which provided some protection from the weather. There were no true cave sites. Two areas were located where stone ring house-outline sites were clustered, one just above UC-4 in the pinon area. These are not to be confused with the house outlines in the vicinity of Needle Springs. There are 20 temporary habitation sites scattered throughout both valleys. The remainder of the sites are so-called chipping sites where varying amounts of waste material from the manufacture of lithic artifacts (points, scrapers, knives, etc.) has accumulated. These range in size from small areas, 25'x 25', to one large continuous site area, 600' x 1000'. These are located along Hot Creek in the dune area crossed by the main access road and the road to the primary Ground Zero area and above Moore Station. These chipping sites apparently were temporarily occupied or seasonally used, and generally have little depth.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF ARTIFACTUAL DATA

The surface collections of artifacts made during the original surveys were brought to the DRI Museum where they were washed, catalogued, and recorded. Flakes and chips were divided according to the type of rock from which they had been removed. This was done with the hope of finding the quarry sources for these different lithic materials in the Hot Creek area. In addition artifacts were weighed, measured and typologically analyzed. The following is a list of the frequency of distribution of the recovered material (see photographs of typical examples in the Plates).

Points	195
Blades	115
Point blanks	31
Scrapers	74
Hammerstones	65
Metates	34
Manos	16
Potsherds	81
Cores	83
Worked fragments	65
Grinding stones	3
Bone and shell	17
Flakes	4,395
Chips	2,317
Quarry samples	8
Miscellaneous	56

The analysis of the projectile points on the basis of typology has identified three points that can be utilized as estimated time markers. A Silver Lake type point was found in the upper end of Little Smokey Valley and two

possible Pinto Basin variant points were found in Hot Creek Valley in diffenent sites. All of these were open chipping sites. This type of projectile point is considered to have an antiquity of several thousand years B.C.. As surface finds these points reflect the occupation of the region by earlier peoples. The other projectile points and blades show great variability, and with the exception of the small desert side-notched point, which is late, indicate the occupation of the area by differing groups in the intervening time period.

Pottery is apparently of Shoshone origin and is late in this area of the Great Basin, probably sometime after 1100 A.D. The sherds are either plain ware, i.e. not decorated, or corrugated. The latter occur in smaller frequencies and are very similar to the Paiute corrugated ware found in sites in Clark County, Nevada.

The remaining artifact types are expectable in the Great Basin area where there is a heavy utilization of wild seeds and various plant products. This is demonstrated by the presence of manos, metates and other grinding implements. Cores, hammerstones, chips and flakes are related to the activities of tool-making. Scrapers are a multiple-use tool, one purpose being the preparation of plants fibers for basketry, another characteristic aspect of Great Basin material culture. No basketry was found

in the immediate area of the Hot Creek region, probably because no really dry shelter areas or sites were located where perishable materials would be preserved.

EXTENDED FIELD AND LABORATORY RESEARCH

1. Excavation and Survey at No Name Hill (Repeater Hill)

The purpose of work in this area was the salvage of archaeological sites along or near the Repeater Hill road alignment two hundred feet on either side of the road construction area. The cultural materials recovered during the test pitting and the intensive surface collecting are tabulated in Table], and a photograph of one of the test pits is included in the plates. Test pits in this area were excavated to sterile, a depth of approximately 30 cm. At the lower levels little artifactual material was found, except for a few scattered flakes. All the midden was screened through a 1/8 inch mesh screen to insure as total a recovery as possible.

As shown in Table] no sherd material was located in the area. There was a total number of 315 lithic fragments recovered from Repeater Hill and 3 pieces of bone. Chert and chalcedony was the material from which the chips and flakes were mainly derived. There were 14 point and blade fragments, none of which were definitive as to type.

TABLE 1.

REPEATER HILL (NO NAME HILL)
CHIPS (C) & FLAKES (F)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES RH	CHERT White C	CHERT White F	CHERT Gray C	CHERT Gray F	CHERT Yellow C	CHERT Yellow F	CHERT Red C	CHERT Red F	CHERT Black C	CHERT Black F	CHERT Brown C	CHERT Brown F	CHALCEDONY White C	CHALCEDONY White F	CHALCEDONY Yellow C	CHALCEDONY Yellow F	CHALCEDONY Red C	CHALCEDONY Red F	Obsidian	Bone	Points & Blades	Totals
1													1									1
2														1					1		1	3
3					1																	1
4			1			1			1													3
5			41	4	12				1						2				2	1		63
6									1				2	1	1							5
7													2								1	3
8			1						1													2
9			1										1									2
10															1							1
11				2					1												1	4
12									2											1	1	4
13			2								1		1		1		1				2	7
14	1		3	2	2	1											1					11
15							1						2									3
16																				1		1
17							2						1									3
18																						0
19	1																				1	2
20	1								2				1								1	5
21	1																				1	2
22																					2	2
23					1																1	2
24						1	1						2								1	5
25																					1	1
26			8		26		6						1		6	1			1			49
27			1		13		1		1													16
28			4		29				2													35
29			1		13		1		4													19
30					4				1				1									6
31			1		1															1		3
32			21		3		1															25
33			22		2								1									25
34			1		3																	4
Totals	4		107	9	109	4	13		17		1		15	2	11	1	2		6	3	14	318

2. Survey in Area above UC4

In the area above UC4 the archaeological survey was in the juniper-pinon forest and was concentrated on the first ridge north of South Canyon. This area was considered important as a stone circle had been located there by Alvin McClane during the preliminary survey of the area. The survey team walked approximately 25 meters apart up and down the length of the ridge to insure full coverage of the area. When a site was encountered a surveyor's stake was put in the ground in the center of the site. The site number was written on the stake and a piece of red ribbon tied on the stake. In addition a lath stake (approximately 4' long) with a red ribbon was placed next to the surveyor's stake so that the site locations are visible from a distance.

This area was called the juniper area and catalogue numbers for the area all have the prefix "J". Seventy eight catalogue numbers were assigned, although two were later deleted when presumed metates proved on cleaning to be unworked rocks.

The chipping areas were characterized by concentrations of chips, sometimes sherds and an occasional artifact. All of the sites are on the first ridge north of South Canyon with the exception of four sites (J-21 through J-24) which are on the other side of Morey Creek. Isolated finds of

single artifacts were made on the first ridge north of South Canyon, not located within a site area, were also given catalogue numbers in the "J" series. The stone circles are 2.5 to 4 meters in diameter. Eight of the eleven stone circles were found on the first rim north of South Canyon. The other three (J-25, J-26 and J-56) were found on the second rim to the north of South Canyon (see Map]). The exact function of these stone rings is questionable. One informant, Dick Barndt a local mine owner, claims that most of them are pinon nut storage areas. With the exception of J-40 these stone rings are lacking in chipping debris and other cultural refuse.

Sherd concentrations refer to areas where sherds, but few or no chips, were found on the surface. All of the sherd concentrations are on the first rim north of South Canyon. The potsherds appear to be of Shoshone manufacture, similar to those collected in other areas of Hot Creek.

The sites located on the two ridges north of South Canyon have been plotted on a map surveyed using a transit. A copy of this map, reproduced as Map], was drafted by Larry Evans, Holmes and Narver, Inc., draftsman at the Base Camp.

2a. Excavation of a Stone Circle Site

One of the stone circles, J-19, was completly mapped

and measured, after which the northeast quadrant was excavated. The excavation was continued to sterile without encountering a single flake or any other cultural debris. In this site there was no evidence of midden nor any additional architecture. This was a pilot excavation to see what could be obtainable in this type of site. It does not imply that comparable lack of material would be expected in the other 11 stone circles on this ridge.

2b. Distribution of Site Types and Artifactual Material

Of the seventy six catalogue numbers assigned to actual sites in this juniper-pinon forest area above UC-4, the site distribution was as follows:

Temporary Camp Areas and Chipping Sites	42
Stone Circle Sites	12
Isolated Artifact Find Sites	18
Sherd Concentrations	4

The analysis of the artifact material (see Tables 2-5) is based on a break down of lithic data into chips and flakes and the kinds of quarry sources from which they were derived, and projectile points, blades, scrapers etc. A total of 6,185 chips, flakes and cores were collected. In addition, 203 other lithic artifacts and 752 potsherds were found. Of the chips, 75% are chert. The remainder are derived from chalcedony, obsidian, basalt, quartz and finegrained volcanics. Chips were collected from 56 locations, artifacts from 54 and sherds from 15. Most

TABLE 2

JUNIPER AREA - CHIP AND FLAKE TABULATION

	CHERT							CHALCEDONY									
Site	White	Mottled	Gray	Red	Yel.	Brown	Black	White	Gray	Yel.	Red	Obs.	Bas.	Gray ?	Quartz	Purp. Mot.	?	Total
J 1	1		4	11	17				1				1	1		1		37
J 4		6	4	10				2			1			4	4	1	1	33
J 5	2		1	1	2							1	1	10				18
J 6	1													2				3
J 7	6	2	2	1			1	1						3				16
J 9	59	32	29	20	11	1	4	13	3	3	4		3	14	5		12	213
J 10	1	4		1							1	1					2	10
J 11	1	1	1	2									1	1			1	8
J 12a	4	11	4	7	4					1	2				2			35
J 12b		11	2	5						1			1					20
J 13a			4	2			1	1		1					54			63
J 13b	4	127	17	26	5		2		1		1	1	8	6	7	2		207
J 14		1	3	2				1			1	1			2			11
J 15	6	7	6	86	17				3	1	3		10	2	6		1	148
J 16	1	4	5	2				1							1			9
J 16b		2	2												2			6
J 18	1	175	10	16	7	3	3	5	39	4	2	1	4	1	12	3	1	287
J 20	2	7	1	7	1		2	33			4		1	1		3		62
J 21	3	8	8	13	5	1	2	10		2	2	1	1	1			3	61
J 22	2	55	21	23	10	6	2	7	8	2		2	1		14			153
J 23	1	3	1		1	2		1	1		2				1			13
J 24	3	6	29	15	1								1	4	2		3	64
J 28		2	1	2					2						2			9
J 29		28	2	5	3		1	1	4			1	1	1	3		8	58
J 30		19		3	3						1		2		5			33
J 31		220	7	110	27		2	6	3	8	2	43	3	2				433
J 32	1	110	34	17	2			2	1				2					169
J 33				45														45
J 34	1	6	1	9	5		1	2			4	1	2		13		1	46
J 35	3	37	39	58	14	1	1	3			3	2	6	8	10	4	17	206

TABLE 2
Juniper Area - Chip and Flake Tabulation continued

	CHERT							CHALCEDONY										
Site	White	Mot-tled	Gray	Red	Yel.	Brown	Black	White	Gray	Yel.	Red	Obs.	Bas.	Gray ?	Quartz	Purp. Mot.	?	Total
J 36	21	79	74	56	6	1	3	21	1	2	10	8	51	12	101		5	451
J 37	34	54	15	28	4		4	10		1		2	6	1	7		5	171
J 38	29	11	2	2	1			8					3	3	1		3	63
J 40	5	115	4	4	1								2	3		3		137
J 42	2	25	1	2											3			34
J 44	6	15	11	14				5			1	1	6	6	2			67
J 46	3	161	7	18	10			3	2		4		5	2	15	3	4	237
J 47		147		1					1			1						150
J 48	1	183	18	8		38			6		2			2		1	44	301
J 49												2						2
J 50	7	129	4	3	1			2	1			1		2	1			151
J 52	4	28		2							1				14			49
J 53	2			15	3		1										1	22
J 54																	1	1
J 56			3								1		1					5
J 57	17	36	14	15	2		2	3		1		1	5		19	1	5	121
J 59	13	155	21	198	27	1	5	6	8		35	3	22	3	19	2	7	525
J 61	16	35	55	79	13		1		6		2	2	16	6	7	4	18	260
J 62	2	7	2	35	71		1		2	2		11	8	2	14	1	6	164
J 63	10	177	12	58	15	1	3	11	1	5	11	2	34	9	11	5	13	378
J 64		10	1	13	2					1	2	44	4				4	81
J 66	4		1	24	3		1	1	4		10	2	11		54		2	117
J 67	3	3	1	16	4			2	1		26	1	1		2			60
J 68	121	1						4	3		1			4	1			135
J 70		5	1	15	3										1		1	26
J 72																	1	1
	403	2260	480	1105	301	53	43	165	103	36	139	136	224	116	417	34	170	6185
	7%	37%	8%	18%	5%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	7%	.5%	3%	

Total Chert: 4645 or 75%

Total Chalcedony: 443 or 7%

TABLE 3

% CONCENTRATION OF MOST FREQUENT FLAKE TYPE IN EACH SITE
JUNIPER AREA

	CHERT				CHALCEDONY						
Site	White	Mot-tled	Gray	Red	Yel.	White	Red	Obs.	Gray G?	Quartz	N
J 1					40%						37
J4				30%							33
J 5									56%		18
J 6									67		3
J 7	37%										16
J 9	28										213
J 10		40%									10
J 11			25%								8
J 12a		31									35
J 12b		55									20
J 13a										86%	63
J 13b		61									207
J 14			27								11
J 15				58							148
J 16		44									9
J 16b											6
J 18		61									287
J 20						53%					62
J 21				21							61
J 22		36									153
J 23		23									13
J 24			45								64
J 28											9
J 29		48									58
J 30		58									33
J 31		51									433
J 32		65									169
J 33				100							45
J 34										28	46
J 35				28							206
J 36										22	451
J 37		32									171
J 38	46										63
J 40		84									137
J 42		74									34
J 44		22									67
J 46		68									237
J 47		98									150
J 48		61									301
J 49								100			2
J 50		85									151

Table 3
% Concentration of Most Frequent Flake Type in Each Site - Juniper Area
Continued

	CHERT				CHALCEDONY					
Site	White	Mot-tled	Gray	Red	Yel.	White	Red	Obs.	Gray G?	Quartz	N
J 52		57%									49
J 53				68%							22
J 56			60%								5
J 57		30									121
J 59				38							525
J 61				30							260
J 62					43%						164
J 63		47									378
J 64								54%			81
J 66								46			117
J 67							43%				60
J 68	90%										135
J 70				58							26

TABLE 4.

CHIPS, ARTIFACTS AND SHERDS - JUNIPER AREA

Site	Chips	Artifacts	Sherds
J 1	37	2	
J 3			7
J 4	33	2	
J 5	18		
J 6	3		1
J 7	16	1	
J 9	237	12	
J 10	10		
J 11	8	5	
J 12a	35	4	
J 12b	20	1	
J 13a	63		
J 13b	207	7	
J 14	11	3	
J 15	148	3	
J 16a	9	1	
J 16b	6		
J 17		1	
J 18	287	9	
J 20	62	2	
J 21	61	3	125
J 22	153	5	
J 23	13		24
J 24	64		
J 28	9		315
J 29	58	3	
J 30	33	2	54
J 31	433	11	
J 32	169	2	
J 33	43	2	
J 34	46		
J 35	206	10	
J 36	415	11	
J 37	171	5	1
J 38	63	3	
J 39		2	
J 40	137	3	
J 41		1	
J 42	34		
J 43		1	
J 44	67	4	
J 46	237	5	9
J 47	150		
J 48	301	4	
J 49	2		50
J 50	151	3	

Table 4.
Chips, Artifacts and Sherds - Juniper Area
Continued

Site	Chips	Artifacts	Sherds
J 51			6
J 52	49	2	
J 53	22	1	
J 54	1		
J 56	5	1	
J 57	121	7	2
J 58		1	1
J 59	525	16	29
J 61	260	15	
J 62	164	5	3
J 63	378	6	
J 64	81	2	132
J 66	117	2	
J 67	60	1	
J 68	135	2	
J 69		1	
J 70	26		
J 71		1	
J 72	1	1	
J 73		1	
J 74		1	
J 76		1	
J 77		1	
J 78		1	
	6185	203	752

TABLE 5.

ARTIFACTS - JUNIPER AREA

Site	Scrapers	Points	Blades	Cutting Tools	Gravers	Drills	Choppers	Ground Stone	Glass & Crystal
J 1	1							1	
J 4		2							
J 7		1							
J 9	1	4	5		1	1			
J 11	1	4							
J 12a	1	2	1						
J 12b		1							
J 13b	3	2	1	1					
J 14		2	1						
J 15	2	1							
J 16	1								
J 17		1							
J 18		5	3						1
J 20			1						3
J 21		3							
J 22	1	1	3						
J 29	1	1	1						
J 30		1	1						
J 31	1	4	5		1				
J 32	1		1						
J 33	1	1							
J 35		8	2						
J 36	2	7	1			1			
J 37		3	1	1					
J 38	2		1						
J 39		1	1						
J 40	1	1				1			
J 41		1							
J 43			1						
J 44	2		1				1		
J 46		4							1
J 48		2	2						
J 50		2		1					
J 52		1	1						
J 53		1							
J 56		1							
J 57		4	3						
J 58		1							
J 59	1	10	5						
J 61	1	8	6						
J 62		2	1			1		1	

Table 5
Artifacts - Juniper Area
Continued

Site	Scrapers	Points	Blades	Cutting Tools	Gravers	Drills	Shoppers	Ground Stone	Glass & Crystal
J 63		3	3						
J 64		1	1						
J 66			1	1					
J 67		1							
J 68		1			1				
J 69		1							
J 71		1							
J 72		1							
J 73		1							
J 74		1							
J 76		1							
J 77			1						
J 78							1		
		24	105	54	4	3	2	2	5

artifacts were projectile points, some of which were from the intermediate time period, later than the Pinto Basin type, mentioned previously, and several were of the desert side-notched type, which are considered late. Blades and scrapers occurred in lesser numbers, while cutting tools, gravers, drills, choppers and ground stone implements were relatively rare. This artifact distribution probably relates to the ecological zone of juniper-pinon forest and may reflect a more concentrated occupation during the spring and summer months. Water is available and food plants are abundant during these seasons. The presence of pinon is another indication of Indian use of the area, since pinon nuts formed a staple portion of their diet.

3. Possible Paleeontological Find

Directly across Moor's Wash from the location of the petroglyph sites, .25 miles east of the road to Moore Station rise a low series of hills. On the western slope of one of these hills a possible palaeontological find was located. It appeared to be the long bone and vertebrae of a vertebrate. The site was inspected by P.Schumacher, R.H. Brooks, and D. Wolfman, and at a later date by S.T. Brooks and G. Kritzman. Samples were collected and submitted by Dr. John White, palaeontologist from Idaho State University, who is researching at the Los Angeles

County Museum. Dr. White concluded that the material is a type of stone composed of a consolidation of volcanic ash which often forms elongated shapes in seams. When examined under the microscope the samples showed no Haversian canal system nor any other manifestations of bone structure.

SURVEY IN THE AREAS AROUND UC3 AND UC4

1. Survey on both sides of Moore Wash

The ridge paralleling the new access road on the east side of Moore Wash was surveyed from the crossing south of Moore Station to an area opposite the Central Pipe Yard. Occasionally along the ridge top are scattered juniper tree growths and sites related to the juniper tree pattern. The six sites located consisted entirely of open chipping sites with no pottery associated. One of these sites is extensive and will need further exploration to assess its potential.

On the west side of Moore Wash from the Central Pipe Yard to the bridge below Moore Station, all the ridge areas were examined for archaeological material. There are no trees on these ridges and no sites were located, which further establishes an ecological relationship between the pattern of juniper tree distribution and site location in this section of Hot Creek Valley.

2. Survey betwyn UC3 and UC4

An extensive survey was conducted in the juniper-pinon forest behind UC3 approximately to the 6700 foot level of elevation. Three sites were located in this area, one was a stone circle outline site, the other two were chipping sites. Scattered chips were found in the area of the stone circle site.

The area from UC3 to UC4 along the base of the mountains at approximately 6400 foot contour elevation was carefully surveyed. In this area on the north side of the dirt road to UC4, eight scattered chipping sites were located. Surface collections were made from all of these areas and the chips and flakes all were derived from the same kinds of source materials as those listed in Tables 2-5 for the Juniper-pinon forest area behind UC4. Artifact material, other than chipping debris, was scattered and scarce.

3. Exploratory Survey along Lower South Canyon

The survey begun by the the Wolfman's in Upper South Canyon was continued into the lower portion of South Canyon, terminating near the previous Ground Zero area. This area was unexpectedly rich archaeologically and the survey of this lower South Canyon could not be completed in the time remaining. The archaeological potential of this area is most important and further research here will be necessary. It is evident from this preliminary

survey that this section of Hot Creek Valley was subject to heavy and continuous utilization by the aboriginal population.

Chips, flakes and artifacts were found scattered on both sides of South Canyon Creek for a distance of over two miles. One projectile point with a concave base, similar to those found in Blackrock Desert, and rather crudely made, may represent contact with peoples in the northern part of the Great Basin. Numerous fragments of blades, scrapers, projectile points and other lithic materials were found, shaped from chalcedony, chert, obsidian, basalt etc. indicating similar use of quarry sources to those utilized in the other areas in the Hot Creek Valley region.

Pottery was found in all three of these sections surveyed, of the same type as has been previously described. In the Survey 2 regions near UC4 numerous fragments of a single large pot were found of the plain Shoshone cooking ware type.

Splitting the South Canyon area into four large sections, and considering each of them a site, the total number of prehistoric sites located in the areas between and around UC3 and UC4 are 17, most of which are chipping sites.

4. Historic Sites

During the latter portion of the UC4 survey, four historic sites (see Photographs) were located in the vicinity of the older access road to UC4. In fact, the walls of one of them had been partially cut by the road grader's blade. The other three, sheltered in a small arroyo, are not yet disturbed. These historic house sites, probably individual miner's camps, were built by excavating into the hillside and reinforcing the dirt walls with unmortared stone. In three of the house structures portions of the supporting logs for the walls and the roof are still visible. Two of these houses appear to be semi-circular and two appear to be rectangular. One metate and one broken mano were found in association with these miner's camps, but the remaining artifacts were historic. These artifacts were made from metal as a coffee grinder, a perforated lid for a collander, wagon wheels, wagon hubs, and other less recognizable objects.

Utilized as part of the rock wall material was one of the largest known incised rock slabs in Western North America. It is irregular in shape and approximately 14" by 8" at the greatest extents. The usual incised stones in Nevada are no more than 3" to 6" in diameter. One surface of the stone is covered with parallel incised lines connected by looping lines. As yet there is no satisfactory interpretation of these incised stones, except as socio-

religious objects.

EXCAVATION OF SITE 26NY109 NEAR MOORE STATION

The site near Moore Station was recorded by R.H. Brooks and F. Worman in March, 1967. In the vicinity of this site, several petroglyphs were also located and it was thought possible that during the course of AEC activities in this area archaeological material could be damaged. In November, 1967, through the assistance of Carl Shaw, AEC Offices, Las Vegas, funds were obtained for the UNLV field class, Brooks, M.Moen and M.Wegener, his field assistants, to record the petroglyphs and carry out a brief excavation of the site.

Site 26NY109 is composed of six or more stone foundations which are located at the base of a cliff, facing north and east. Looking to the northeast from the site, the buildings of Moore Station are visible. One hundred yards away from the site is a graded road constructed and utilized by AEC. In 1969 the W.P. Hall Construction Company located their base camp adjacent to this site area, and set up a prefabricated building 150 feet from the lower end of the house foundations. In spring 1969 they left the region and at present the building and level area close to the road are in process of occupation by the McKenzie Construction Company.

The petroglyph sites are located approximately a half mile south of the foundations, one covering the walls to the entrance of a small canyon and the other further up the canyon, visible from the original road to UC4. Photographs of these are included in the Plates and a report will be published soon in the Los Alamos Laboratory Publication Series through the assistance of F. Worman.

Both the petroglyph sites and the occupation site are located at a lower elevation than the pinon-juniper forest area and the vegetation consists of sagebrush, various grasses, scrub pine, some juniper and manzanita.

1. Excavation

The house foundations are composed of rocks ranging from the size of a fist to two feet in diameter. The rocks were stacked so as to form circular or semi-circular wall patterns. Prior to excavation these were ill-defined through rockfall from the cliff and brushy growth. The foundations are located at the base of a slope, a run-off area, which caused alluvium fill and rock material to be washed into the site. A general survey of the area in front of the site and on the ridges above the site was made and flake and core material was found.

Before excavation the site area was cleared of brush and loose rock fall in an area extending 10 years beyond the house foundations. Through the assistance of Mr. Clyde

Sundstrom, a heavy equipment operator for the W.R. Hall Construction Company, a stratigraphic trench was cut directly in front of the house foundations. It was 61 cm. deep, 15 meters in length and 3.6 meters wide. The trench made to determine the stratigraphy of the site and to clarify the pattern of erosion and run-off.

Excavation was maintained by 10 cm. intervals and all midden was screened through a 1/8" mesh screen. Cultural material was bagged separately for each level and each house foundation. Six stone foundations were identified, Houses #2 and 6 were excavated to 20 cm., Houses #4 and 5 to sterile.

In general the midden deposit was very shallow, less than 20 cm. which may not be a reflection of the actual length of occupation since wind and water erosion have disturbed the surface. The rock foundations did not extend to the full depth of the midden, indicating that there were various periods of occupation of this shelter. These foundations had once been higher, and had been the rock supports for some type of brush house structures. Multiple periods of occupation are substantiated in Houses #4 and 5, which were excavated to the greatest depth, 50 cm. In both of these a second occupation layer was found below a reddish alluvium deposit in the 40-50 cm. level. The alluvium indicates a hiatus between the two occupation

levels, during which the shelter site area was not utilized by people.

2. Analysis of Cultural Material

Artifacts were not numerous and are similar to surface finds made elsewhere in this region. Eighteen pottery sherds were found distributed from the surface to the 30 cm. level. They are utility or cooking ware, lacking decoration, highly smudged on the inside while the exterior color ranges from brown to brownish gray. All sherds from the Hot Creek region, both those from this excavation and those from surface surveys are similar in color, texture and thickness. In general these have been classified as Shoshone cooking ware.

One highly polished tubular bone bead with both ends cut was found at the 20-30 cm. level. It is 5 cm. long and a half cm. wide. This is the only bone bead recovered during the archaeological investigations in the Hot Creek region.

85% of the core and flake material is made from chert, with some use of limestone, obsidian and quartzite for lithic artifacts. The vertical distribution of lithic material was from surface to 30 cm. One chert blade, bifacially flaked with the base missing, was found on the surface of the ridge above the site. Two blades made of jasper and bifacially flaked with the tips missing were found

in the 10-20 cm. level of House 5. Three incomplete projectile points were recovered all from beneath the 30 cm. level, and none of them typologically definitive. One scraper was located in the excavation, the only other was a surface find near the house foundations.

3. Summary

This site, from the artifactual content, appears to have been occupied fairly late, probably after 1200 A.D., and most probably by Shoshone peoples. Stratigraphically there are visible breaks in the occupation sequence, which implies a seasonal occupation of the area. Groups must have come in for collecting purposes, utilizing the cliff for shelter and the available water at the spring near Moore Station. On the basis of the present abundance of flora and fauna, this ecological zone would have provided an ample habitat for wandering groups of aboriginal peoples.

PHOTOGRAPHY

One of the provisions of the extended contract was to carry out professional photography on site areas located close to construction projects or other activities, as well as of significant archaeological features. In early June a week's period was spent by R. Leavitt photographing archaeological sites in the Hot Creek region. Selected photographs of critical areas, specifically surveyed

areas, or areas with significant archaeological features are included in the plates for this report. In addition a complete set of photographs of Moore Station, in the vicinity of UC4, were taken, so that any ground motion damage can be evaluated. These photographs are on file in the records of the Nevada Archaeological Survey.

VANDALISM

In the Preliminary Report reference had been made to the vandalism by individuals working at the Central Nevada Test Site. A number of these are private collectors who have a personal interest in surface collecting of artifacts. Others are actual vandals who will destroy historic or prehistoric sites in order to obtain cultural materials for their own collections. Many others simply pick up material as they see it on the surface without realizing its significance. Mention was made in the Report of archaeological material found near where a USGS trailer had been located. Recently more evidence of this type of collecting was found in the debris left after the Hall Construction Company vacated the area near Site No. 26NY109, near Moore Station.

The concept of the Central Nevada Test Site as an attractive nuisance is an opinion beginning to be formed locally. Tourists and visitors are utilizing the AEC constructed road system to enter public and private lands, which were

formerly not as available, both out of curiosity regarding the Test Site and the exploration and mischief. Moore Station was vandalized by such individuals recently and there is the possibility of this vandalism extending to archaeological materials.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Summary of Archaeological Research

At present a total of 221 archaeological sites have been recorded in the area being utilized by the Atomic Energy Commission in the Hot Creek Valley region in Central Nevada. The archaeological survey was instigated by the AEC in order to comply with the 1906 Antiquities Act (see Appendix to the Preliminary Report for a copy of the law). In locations where sites are in danger from road construction and heavy equipment operation, some salvage archaeology was initiated to preserve material that might be destroyed. The major area of this present salvage work was at Repeater (or No Name) Hill, although a brief archaeological excavation was carried out in 1967 at Site No. 26NY109, near Moore Station, also financially supported by AEC.

Tables have been included throughout this report indicating the nature, shape and type of artifact recovered, both in survey and excavation. A suggested time horizon would date the earliest acceptable occupation of this region from around 2000 B.C. continuing through to historic Shoshone

peoples. As yet no stratified site of any depth has been excavated so that vertical chronology based on in situ artifacts cannot be correlated with the horizontal typologies derived from projectile points and pottery types.

The additional time requested in the extension of the contract, resulted in a significant expansion of archaeological site material, reaffirming the statements in the Preliminary Report as to archaeological potential of the region. In addition a number of new stone circle sites have been located, as well as the four historic miner's camp sites below UC4. These new sites fall within the square area near UC3 and UC4 delineated on the site distribution map included with the Preliminary Report.

2. Recommendations

On the basis of continuing road construction, the future Ground Zero areas, either at UC3 or UC4 and the vandalism related to the expansion of the facilities of the Central Nevada Test Site, it is recommended that the archaeological research in the Hot Creek region be carried on with these specific priorities.

1) Of primary importance is the salvage excavation and stablization of the four miner's camps below UC4, one of which has already been partially damaged

by road grading. Although these are historic rather than prehistoric sites, the proximity of UC4 and the establishment of the McKenzie Construction Company in the recently vacated Hall Construction Company camp increases the danger of vandalism of these sites which has already begun on the one nearest the road.

2) Next in priority for salvage excavation is a more extensive exploration of the remaining 11 unexcavated stone circles recently located in the survey behind UC4. These sites are close to UC4 and in a direct line with UC3.

3) Listed here as third in priority, but of equal significance, is an intensive survey of the South Canyon area which runs in a diagonal line from directly behind UC4, past UC3 to near the original Ground Zero.

These three recommendations have priority for archaeological research concomitant with the continuation of the AEC program in this region. As just mentioned all of these sites and site areas in the vicinity of both UC3 and UC4, and a critical consideration is requested for these proposed archaeological recommendations.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES AND MAP

Figure 1. Top row, two Pinto Basin type points and a Silver Lake point; the next three rows illustrate the intermediate type points; row five, blade fragments; the remaining material illustrates quarry, chopper and other lithic artifacts.

Figure 2. A selection of manos from the Hot Cr-ek Region.

Figure 3. A selection of metates from the Hot Creek Region.

Figure 4. The Petroglyph site below UC4.

Figure 5. Flake and chipping material lying on the surface of one of the larger site areas near Moore Station.

Figure 6. The new access road to UC3 and UC4 cutting through sand dunes, archaeological material occurs on both sides of the road.

Figure 7. View of the new access road up Repeater Hill, sites test pitted are in the lower left foreground.

Figure 8. Cable line area near Hot Creek, which has cut through a number of archaeological surface sites.

Figure 9. Dune area downstream from Figure 8, which contains semi-permanent occupation sites.

Figure 10. Small shelter site, covered by a rock wall, on the northern side of Little Smokey Valley.

Figure 11. Abandoned artifacts found adjacent to the former trailer sites of the Hall Construction Company, below UC4.

Figure 12. Test pits excavation in the Repeater Hill area.

Figure 13. Another test pit in the same area.

Figure 14. Stone ring outline in the area above UC4.

Figure 15. Another stone ring site in the same area.

Figure 16. Rock shelter in the vicinity of Rattlesnake Spring, close to the turn off to Hot Creek Ranch and UC3.

Figure 17. Site area in the lava flow near the lower end of Little Smokey Valley.

Figure 18. Standing rock wall of Miner's Camp below UC4.

Figure 19. The Miner's Camp below UC4, which had been cut and one edge destroyed by a road grader.

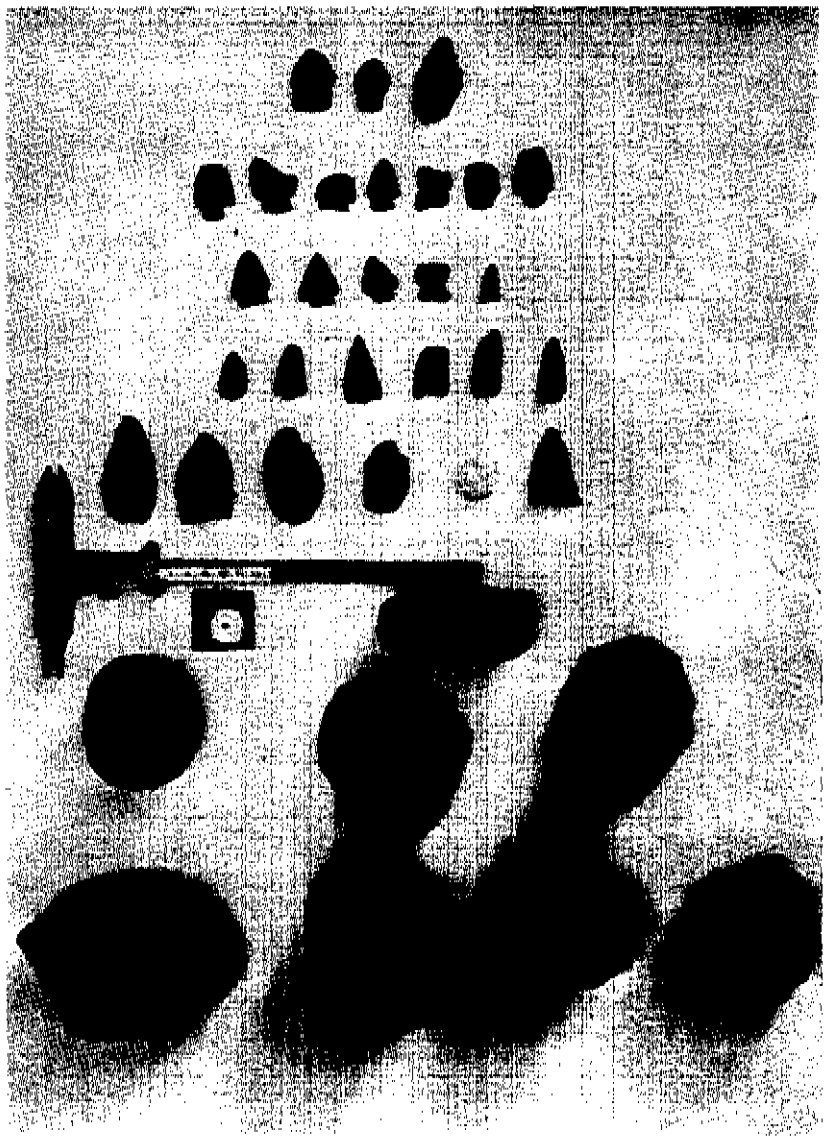
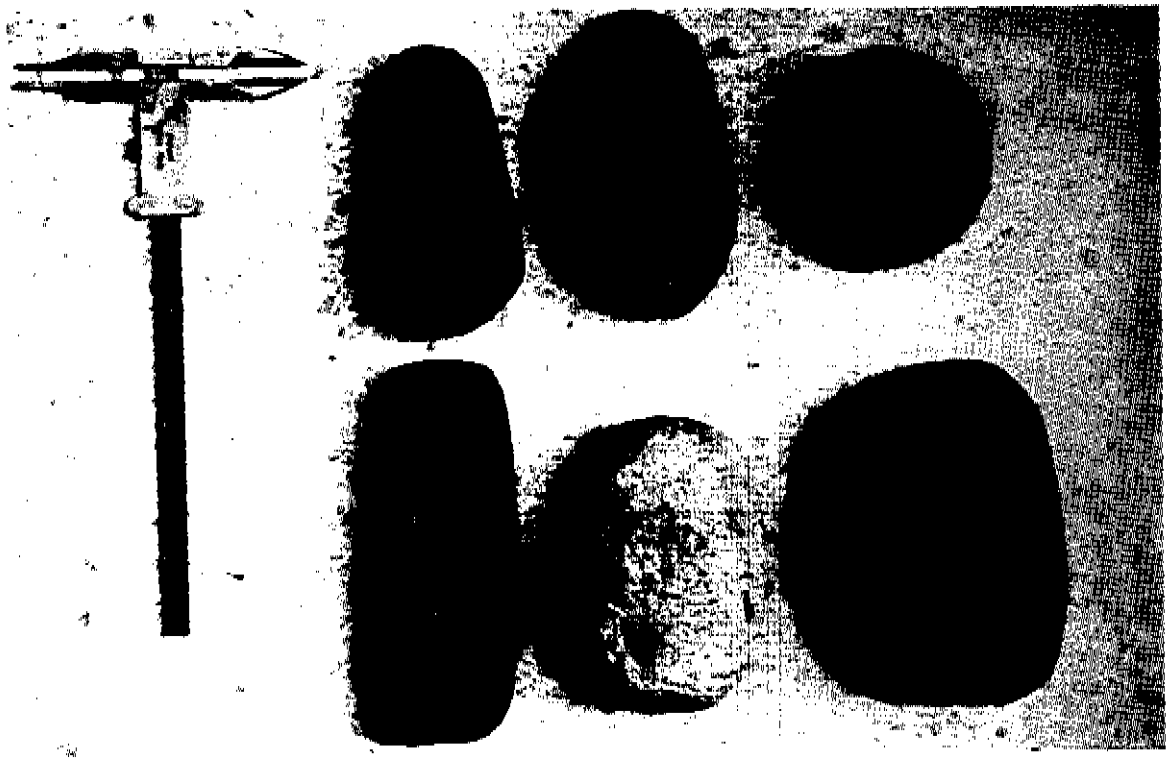


PLATE 1



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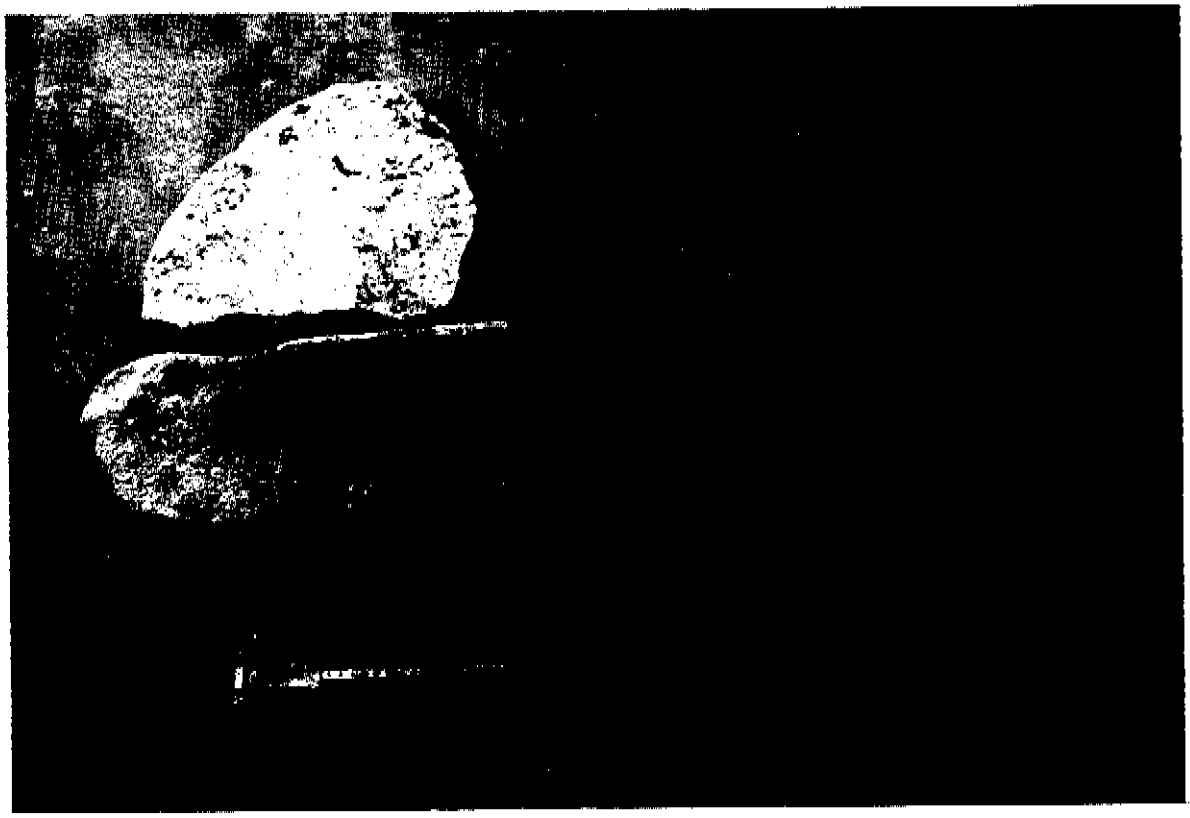

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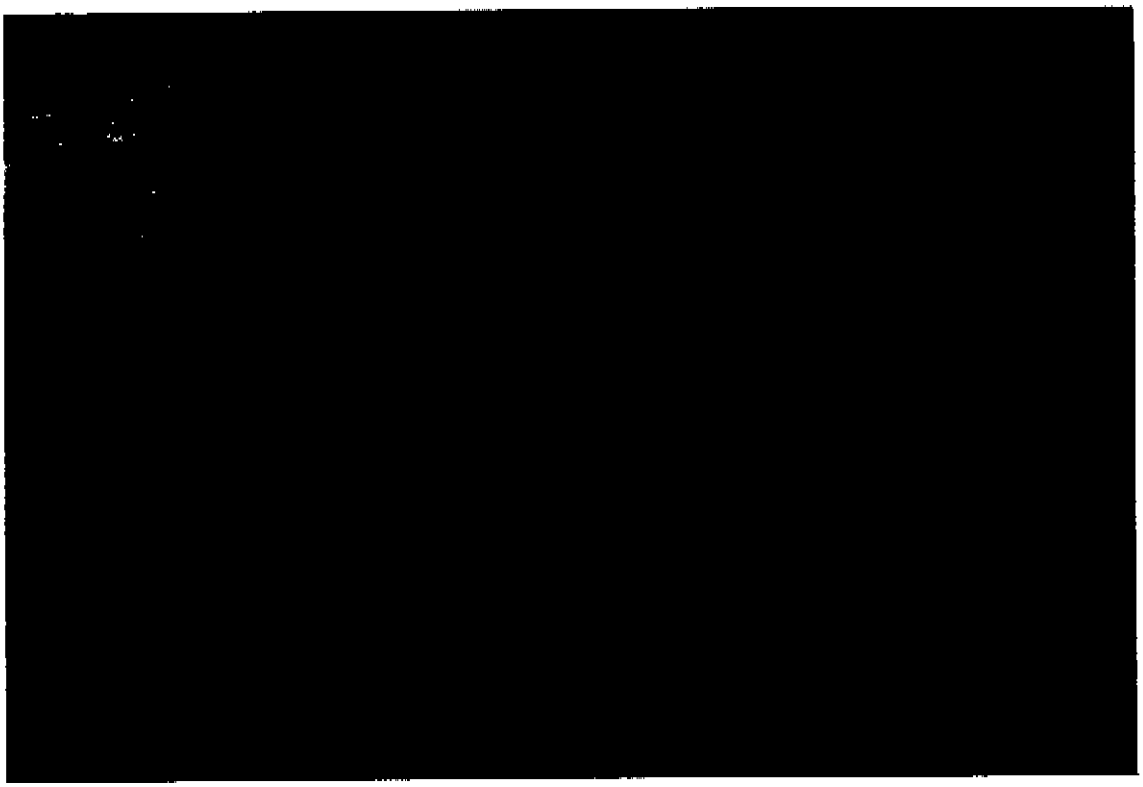

PLATE 4

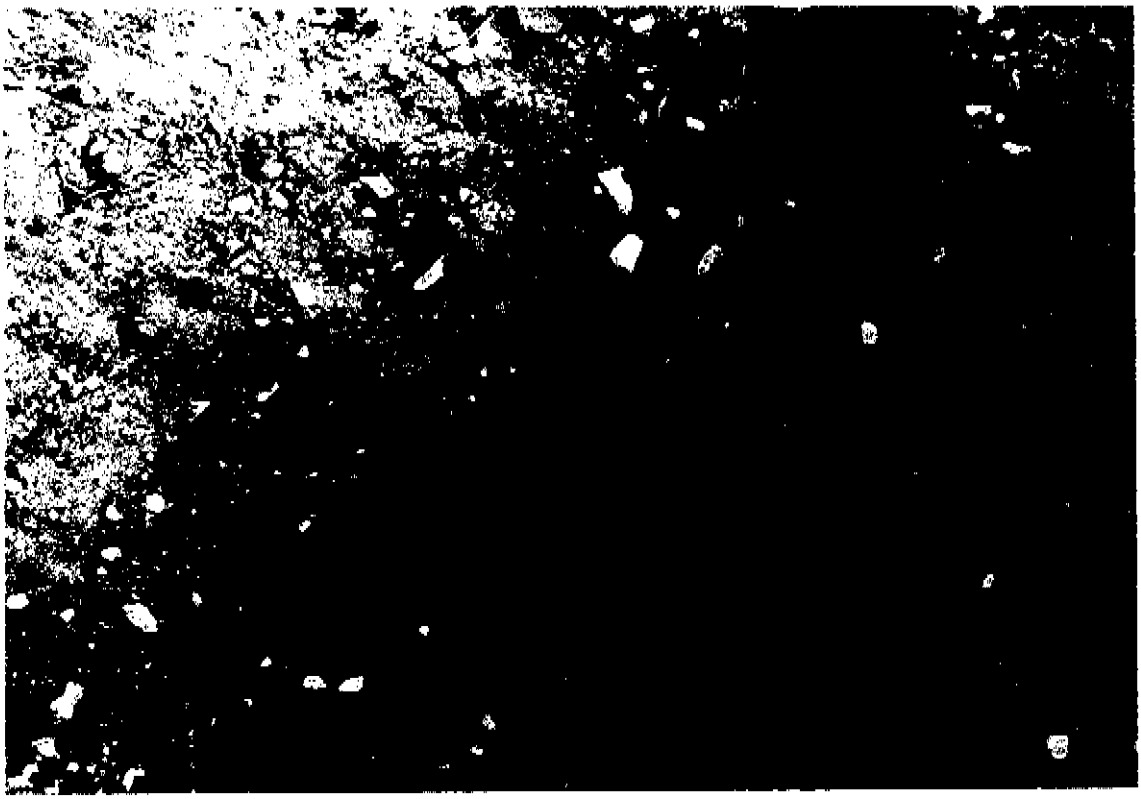

PLATE 5

PLATE 6

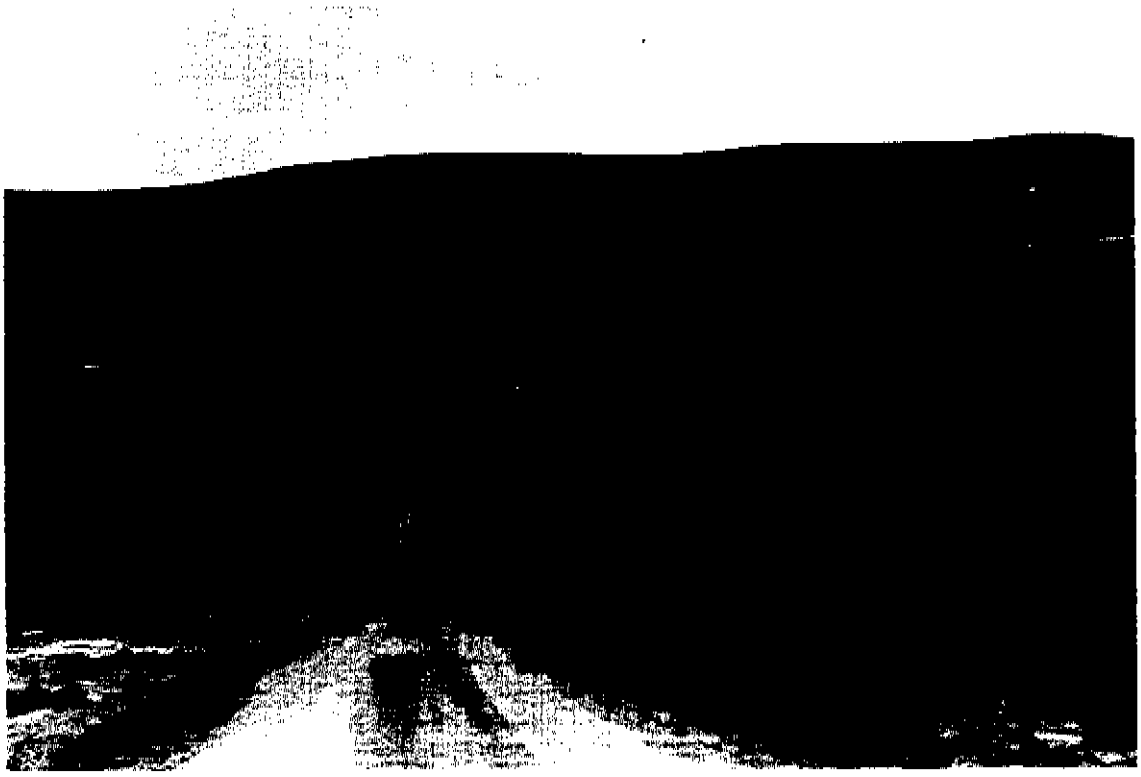

PLATE 7

PLATE 8

PLATE 9

PLATE 10

PLATE 11

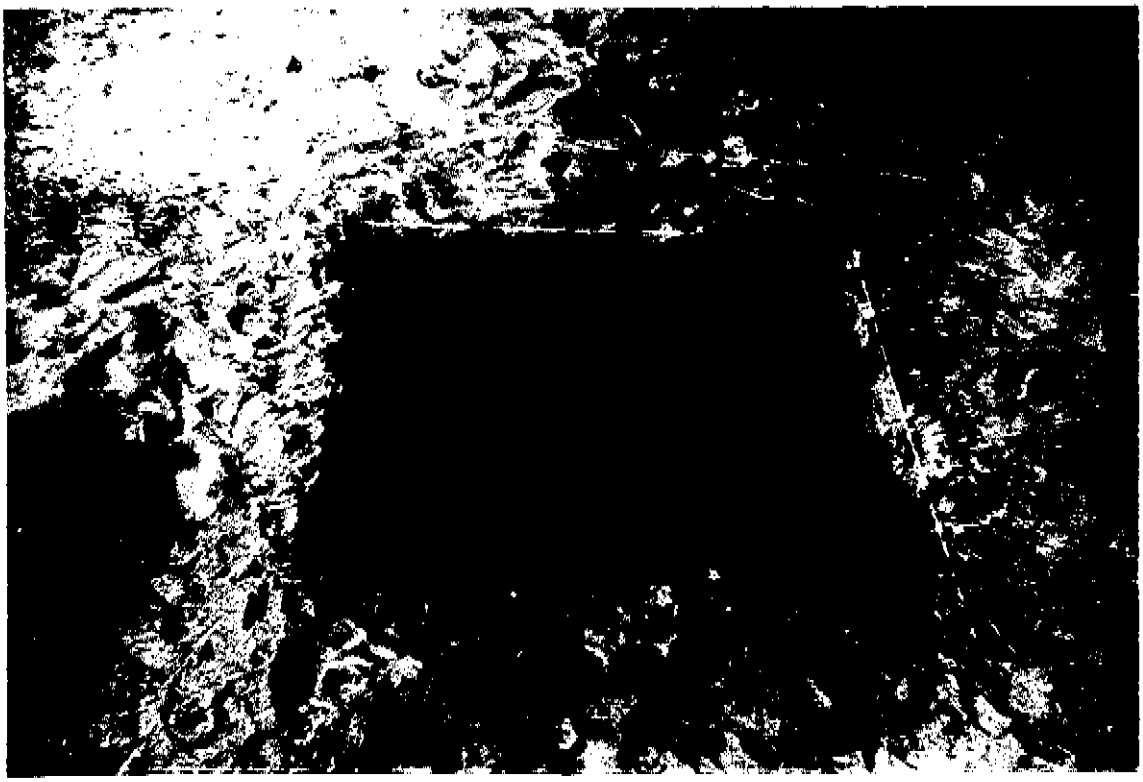

PLATE 12

PLATE 13

PLATE 14

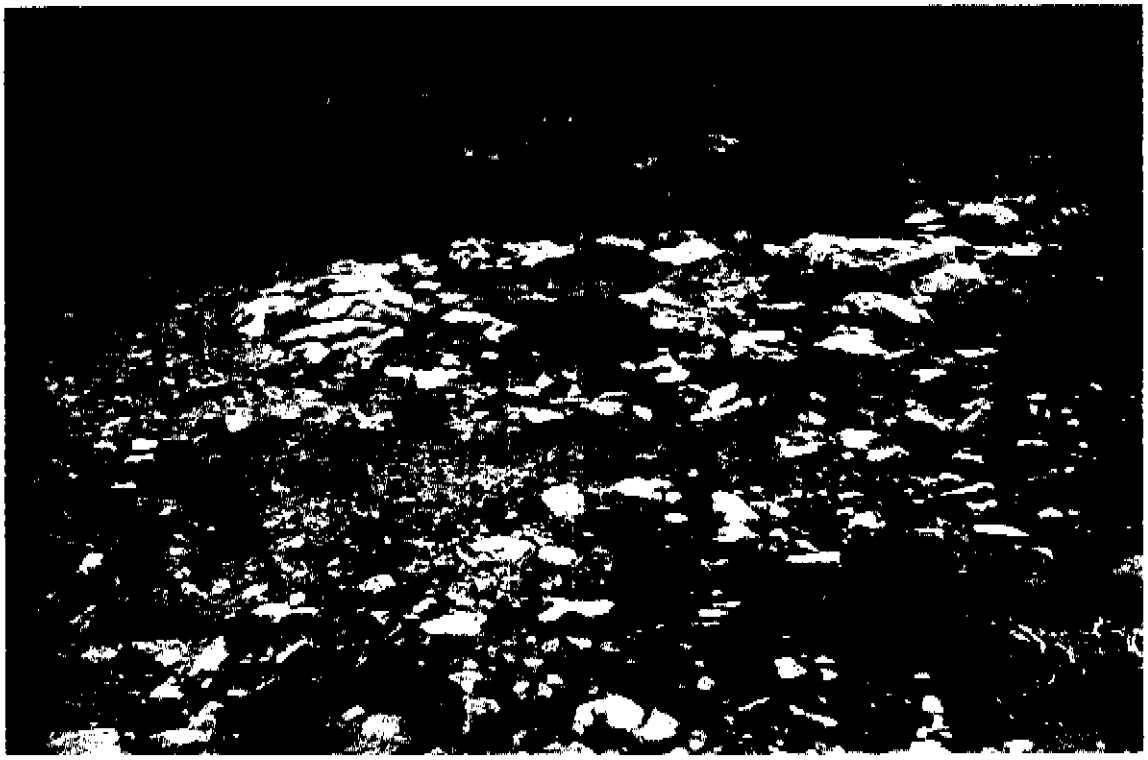

PLATE 15

PLATE 16

PLATE 17

PLATE 18

PLATE 19

The area map is not available electronically. Please contact lm.records@gjo.doe.gov to request the map.